

# World Problems Expectations

Welcome to World Problems for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 2010-2011 school year. We are excited about the upcoming class and opportunity to work together. Before starting, it is important to know what we expect of you as a student.

## Course Description:

Over the past several years, Shroder High School has committed itself to a reform movement called High Schools that Work. This program aims to help our school better prepare juniors and seniors for life after high school by improving our reading and writing skills. Therefore, **we will take on the challenge of reading three novels over the course of this semester.** In this class, we will analyze contemporary world problems. Three case studies we will read are from Sierra Leone in Africa, Iran in the Middle East and Pakistan and Afghanistan in Central Asia. We will focus on African child soldiers with the book A Long Way Gone. We will discuss Iran and the Iranian Revolution by reading the graphic novel Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi. We also will consider problems of terrorism in Afghanistan by reading the Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. We will study the world problem, consider the historical background and discuss possible solutions to these problems. **A major goal of this course is to increase student knowledge about the world and to describe the role religion, ethnicity, culture, medical care, location, resources, geography and government impacts countries and regions of the world.** Throughout the course, we will discuss a wide range of world problems including how to address the AIDS pandemic, how to engage in trade in a global economy, how to fight terrorism and other world problems. We will utilize Skype, speakers, and food to expose students to world cultures. As recipients of an ARRA grant, we will incorporate technology to help students learn. **We have 25 brand new Macintosh computers for use each day in class and after school.**

## Supplies:

Students will need 100 sheets of notebook paper, a pen and a folder.

## Grading Policy:

Grades will be assigned based on reading and writing of the novels and other readings from newspapers and reliable internet sites. Participation in class discussions and seminar are critical for this class. You will have a daily reading quiz at the beginning of class. You will have 2 days to make up missing or low quiz scores on reading quizzes. The homework will involve reading and writing and will be a critical part of preparing for college and careers after high school. **Please check Powerschool for daily progress reports. If there is a question and/or concern about a grade please speak with us after class or after school. We will provide a physical copy of a progress report to the students every Monday.** All assignments will be given in advance and are due on time in order to receive full credit.

## Assignments:

Homework is a requirement of this class. Students requiring assistance on the homework and those who fail to satisfactorily complete the assignments will be expected to stay for after-school help sessions every day after school.

**Make-up Work Policy:**

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to contact us regarding missed assignments. Any in-class work or homework that you missed must be turned in the day after you return to school. Missed assignments can be found on the wikispace page: <http://worldproblemsshroder.wikispaces.com>. If you are absent on the day of a test or quiz, you must see us within two days of your return to school to make arrangements to take it. Failure to schedule a make-up within this two-day period will result in a forfeiture of your right to take the test.

**Behavior/Rules:**

Students are expected to respect others and come to class on time prepared to learn. Students are also expected to follow directions. Put downs and purposefully harmful remarks will not be tolerated. No one will be allowed to disrupt the learning process of others. IMPORTANT: **“Honesty is not only morally right, it’s efficient”** -Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*

**Conferences:**

We will make every effort to keep you and your parent/guardian informed about your progress in class. If you have questions or concerns, please email us at [craigrushxu@gmail.com](mailto:craigrushxu@gmail.com) or call us at 513.363.6939. We will make every effort to get back to you within one school day. Additional course information can also be found on our class wikispace page: <http://worldproblemsshroder.wikispaces.com>. If you or someone you know would like to speak to the class or get involved in any other way, please let us know. **Please remember to check Powerschool for daily progress reports.**

Thank you,  
Mike Farrell & Craig Rush

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

I have read and know the expectations for class.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent/Guardian Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to share some of my knowledge and/or experiences with the students

☐ I know someone who has knowledge and/or experiences who might be willing to share these with the students.  
His/her name is \_\_\_\_\_. His/her contact information is \_\_\_\_\_ (phone) \_\_\_\_\_ (email).

☐ I would be willing to assist in other ways:

☐ Participating in seminars, ☐ Helping students on research projects, ☐ Clerical needs, ☐ Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_